

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 SCA-01 RSC-01 /020 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ ANZ: JVMARTIN, JR.: RLW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, OGEN, AS

SUBJ: TRANSMITTAL OF VICTORIAN REPORT ON SCIENTOLOGY

REF: MELBOURNE A-18 (NOTAL)

1. REF AIRGRAM TRANSMITTED GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA DOCUMENTS, AT LATTER' S REQUEST FOR FORWARDING TO THE LAS VEGAS POLICE WHO HAD REQUESTED THEM. THESE DOCUMENTS -- REPORT OF BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO SCIENTOLOGY, AND APPENDIX 19 TO SAME -- ARE CONDEMNATORY OF SCIENTOLOGY (NOW RECOGNIZED BY GOA AS A LEGITIMATE RELIGION) AND CONGEN HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATES THAT THE FOUNDER OF SCIENTOLOGY MAY INITIATE LIBEL ACTION AGAINST VICTORIA. CONGEN REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD THESE DOCUMENTS TO LAS VEGAS POLICE, CAUTIONING THEM THAT APPENDIX 19, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN RELEASED IN AUSTRALIA, SHOULD BE USED DISCREETLY.

2. DEPARTMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO FORWARD THESE DOCUMENTS
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DIRECTLY TO LAS VEGAS POLICE, NOR TO BE PART OF CHAIN OF TRANSMITTAL WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT BOTH THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOA ARE AWARE OF WHAT MAY BE INVOLVED. LAS VEGAS POLICE MAY WELL HAVE IN MIND SUBMISSION OF THESE DOCS TO COURT IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER USE IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE MADE PUBLIC.

3. WE CAN SEE NO PARTICULAR WAY IN WHICH USG CAN BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION. WE DO SEE TWO ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES.

A. IF CONGEN AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ARE AGREEABLE, DEPARTMENT CAN TURN DOCUMENTS OVER TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE WITH SUGGESTION THAT IT MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH LAS VEGAS POLICE, FIND OUT WHY DOCUMENTS ARE WANTED, AND THEN DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHETHER IT WISHES TO GIVE DOCUMENTS TO THEM.

B. ALTERNATIVELY, IF GOVT OF VICTORIA DOES NOT WISH TO INVOLVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA POLICE MAY WISH TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH LAS VEGAS POLICE, ASCERTAIN WHAT THEY WANT WITH DOCUMENTS, AND THEN MAIL DOCUMENTS DIRECTLY TO LAS VEGAS IF SATISFIED THIS IS RIGHT COURSE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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